

### **Example of a Public Law**

The following is one of many laws that pertain to the protection of public land resources. Participants of the Chihuahuan Desert Lab must comply with all applicable laws. Before engaging students in any research project on public lands, teachers must meet with public land agents in their area to identify relevant laws and obtain special use permits.

#### Summary of Public Law 100-691, November 18, 1988

#### **FEDERAL CAVE RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT OF 1988**

Congress declared that significant caves on Federal lands are an invaluable and irreplaceable part of the Nation's natural heritage; and in some instances, these significant caves are threatened due to improper use, increased recreational demand, urban spread and a lack of specific statutory protection.

The purposes of the Act are to secure, protect and preserve significant caves on Federal lands for the perpetual use, enjoyment and benefit of all people; and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities and those who utilize caves located on Federal lands for scientific, educational or recreational purpose.

It is the policy of the United States that Federal lands are managed in a manner that protects and maintains, to the extent practical, significant caves.

Information concerning the specific location of any significant cave may not be made available to the public under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, unless the Secretary determines that disclosure of such information would further the purposes of this Act and would not create a substantial risk of harm, theft or destruction of such a cave.

The Secretary is authorized to issue permits for the collection and removal of cave resources under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may impose, including the posting of bonds to insure compliance with the provisions of any permit:

Any permit issued pursuant to this section shall include information concerning the time, scope, location and specific purpose of the proposed collection, removal or associated activity, and the manner in which such collection, removal or associated activity is to be performed must be provided.

The Secretary may issue a permit pursuant to this subsection only if he determines that the proposed collection or removal activities are consistent with the purposes of this Act, and with other applicable provisions of law.

The Secretary shall revoke any permit issued under this section if the permittee has violated any provision of this Act. The Secretary may refuse to issue a permit to any person who has violated any provision of this Act or who has failed to comply with any condition of a prior permit.